

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B32B 29/00, 27/04	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/00172 (43) International Publication Date: 3 January 1997 (03.01.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE96/00796 (22) International Filing Date: 18 June 1996 (18.06.96) (30) Priority Data: 9502218-2 19 June 1995 (19.06.95) SE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PERSTORP AB [SE/SE]; S-284 80 Perstorp (SE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): VELIN, Per-Erik [SE/SE]; Johan Hårds Gata 72, S-254 54 Helsingborg (SE). NILSSON, Nils-Joel [SE/SE]; Meteorvägen 5, S-281 43 Hässleholm (SE). LINDGREN, Kent [SE/SE]; Alvägen 41, S-284 32 Perstorp (SE). (74) Agent: STENBERG, Yngve; Perstorp AB, S-284 80 Perstorp (SE).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF A DECORATIVE THERMO-SETTING PLASTIC LAMINATE (57) Abstract Process for the manufacturing of a decorative thermosetting laminate with a wear-resistant and a scratch-resistant surface layer, wherein a continuous paper web is impregnated with melamine-formaldehyde resin, that one side of the web is coated with hard particles with a size of 30-90 μm . After drying, the other side is coated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin containing hard particles with an average particle size of 1-15 μm . The paper is after drying placed as the uppermost sheet in a laminate with the side coated with the smallest particles directed upwards.		

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LJ	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

Process for the manufacturing of a decorative thermo-setting plastic laminate

The present invention relates to a process for the manufacturing of a decorative thermosetting laminate with an abrasion and scratch resistant surface layer.

Decorative thermosetting laminates are well known and used for instance as surface material for walls, cupboard doors, desktops, tabletops, for other furniture and as a flooring material.

Such laminates are often made of two to seven Kraft paper sheets impregnated with phenol-formaldehyde resin, a monochromatic or patterned decor paper sheet impregnated with melamine-formaldehyde resin and a fine so called overlay sheet of α -cellulose impregnated with melamine-formaldehyde resin.

The overlay sheet is intended to protect the decor paper sheet from abrasion. In certain cases the overlay sheet is omitted.

There are also laminates consisting of a base layer of particle board or fibre board provided with such a decor paper sheet and possible an overlay sheet. These sheets can be laminated towards the base layer under heat and pressure. If only a decor paper sheet is used then this can be glued towards the base layer.

The described laminates do have many good properties, it has however turned out that there is a great need of improving the abrasion resistance and the surface scratch resistance of laminates exposed to an extreme abrasion. This is especially the case for flooring laminates, but to a certain extent also for desktop and tabletop laminates.

According to the U.S. patent 4,940,503 the abrasion resistance of such laminates has successfully been improved. Then a paper web is impregnated with melamine-formaldehyde resin. At least one side of the web is coated with small dry and hard particles with an average particle size of about 1-80 μm , evenly distributed over the wet resin surface on the web whereafter the resin is dried. The particle coated web, so called prepreg is thereafter possibly cut into sheets. At least one such sheet or web is placed as a surface layer on a base layer and bonded thereto. The hereby produced laminate will have a good abrasion resistance.

The hard particles used according to the invention normally have an average particle size of around 50 μm , which is an advantage from an abrasion point of view. It has, however turned out that the scratch resistance of laminates produced

**CONFIRMATION
COPY**

in the known way is not always satisfactory. Furthermore the press plates used during the laminating stage are scratched by the relatively big particles in the surface of the laminate. The press plates are very expensive and manufactured of a high quality steel. Intermediate layers of disposable aluminium foil are often used to protect these press plates which will affect the production cost.

There is a need to be able to produce an abrasion and scratch resistant decorative laminate and to avoid the above mentioned problems.

It has according to the present invention been possible to achieve a process for the manufacturing of a decorative thermosetting laminate with an abrasion and scratch resistant surface layer, which laminate comprises paper sheets impregnated with thermosetting resin. The process is characterised in that a continuous paper web is impregnated with melamine-formaldehyde resin, that one side of the web is coated with about 2-20 g/m², preferably about 6-12 g/m² of hard particles with an average particle size of about 30-90 µm, preferably around 40-70 µm. The particles are evenly distributed over the whole wet resin surface of the paper web, after which the resin is dried. The other side of the web, or a second paper web is coated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin, where the resin contains hard particles with an average particle size of about 1-15 µm, preferably about 1-9 µm and in such an amount that the web will have a coating of about 1-15 g/m², preferably about 2-10 g/m² of these hard particles, whereafter the resin is dried. The particle-coated impregnated paper web, so called prepreg is possibly cut into sheets. At least one such sheet or web is placed as a surface layer on an base layer and bonded thereto whereby the surface coated with the smallest particles is placed so that it is directed towards the upper side of the laminate and the surface with the bigger particles is directed downwards. Alternatively the first sheet or web with the smallest particles is placed as the uppermost layer in the laminate with the particle coated side directed towards the upper side of the laminate and the second sheet or web with the bigger particles is placed under the uppermost layer with the particle-coated surface directed outwards.

The hard particles can consists of many different materials. Especially suitable materials are silicon dioxide, aluminium oxide, and/or silicon carbide. A blend between two or more materials is accordingly also possible.

The base layer can consists of a fibre-board or a particle-board, whereby the particle coated paper sheet is bonded to the base layer by laminating under heat and pressure or by gluing. The base layer can also consist of a number of conventional dry pre-preg webs or prepreg sheets respectively which are not

coated with particles. The particle coated web or sheet respectively is placed on top of these conventional webs or sheets, whereby the resin in the uppermost of these webs respectively sheets normally consists of melamine-formaldehyde resin, while the rest of the webs respectively sheets preferably contains phenol-formaldehyde resin or phenol-urea-formaldehyde resin, whereafter the webs respectively a stack of sheets continuously respectively discontinuously are laminated together with the surface layer by using a high pressure and an increased temperature.

The particle coated paper web or paper sheet often consists of a so-called overlay paper, preferably of α -cellulose.

It is, however also possible to coat the so-called decorative sheet with the hard particles. The decorative sheet can be patterned or monochromatic.

In some cases it is possible to coat the overlay sheet as well as the decorative sheet with particles or use two or more particle coated overlay sheets or decorative sheets. It is also possible to place a conventional not particle coated overlay sheet on top of the particle coated sheet or sheets.

The invention will be explained further in connection to the embodiment examples below, of which the examples 1 - 7 illustrates a first embodiment of the invention where the uppermost sheet in the laminate consists of a so-called overlay on the top side coated with a slurry of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing small hard particles, and on the lower side coated with somewhat larger particles in the still wet melamine-formaldehyde resin which the paper has been impregnated with.

Example 8 represents a prior art laminate for comparison, which laminate was made in accordance with the U.S. patent 4,940,503 where the uppermost sheet in the laminate has been coated with rather big particles on the lower side in still wet melamine-formaldehyde resin which the paper has been impregnated with.

Examples 9 and 10 represent another embodiment of the invention where the uppermost sheet in the laminate is coated with a slurry of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing small hard particles. The lower side of this uppermost sheet is not coated with any particles. Instead somewhat bigger particles have been sprinkled on the still wet resin on the top side of the second uppermost melamine-formaldehyde resin impregnated paper sheet.

Example 11 represents a comparison test outside the scoop of the invention. The uppermost sheet in the laminate consists of an overlay which on the top side has been coated with a slurry of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing small hard particles. The lower side of this paper sheet is not coated with any bigger hard particles, nor is there any second underlying sheet coated with bigger hard particles.

From the examples 1 - 7 and 9 and 10 according to the invention it is shown that a very good scratch resistance is achieved by the use of the small hard particles on the upper side of the uppermost sheet. The somewhat bigger particles on the lower side of the uppermost sheet or on the top side of the following sheet give a very good abrasion resistance.

The comparative test according to example 8 shows that a good abrasion resistance is achieved when bigger hard particles are used on the lower side of the uppermost sheet. The scratch resistance will however be rather poor.

The comparative test according to example 11 shows that a good scratch resistance is achieved when small hard particles is used on the top side of the uppermost sheet. The abrasion resistance will however be very poor if the bigger particles are left out on the lower side of the uppermost paper or on underlying paper.

The examples show the measured scratch resistance, measured by means of two different methods according to a modified version of ASTM D-2197. At the first method the sample is judged in a viewing cupboard at an eye - sample distance of 772 - 914 mm and at an observation angle between 45 and 75 degrees from the table surface. The sample is judged according a classification scale. This first method is called distance.

The second method is made in the same way. The person who makes the test does however decide the angle and the distance himself so that the real scratch becomes visible. This second method is called real. A low value indicates the best scratch resistance.

In the examples the scratch resistance has only been measured by scratching across the manufacturing direction of the laminate (paper), since a scratch becomes more visible in this direction. Sometimes also the scratch resistance along the laminate is measured.

The abrasion was in the examples measured according to EN 438-2:6.

According to this standard the abrasion through the decorative layer of the finished laminates is measured in two steps. In the first step the so-called IP (initial-point) is measured, where the initial abrasion starts.

In step two the so called EP (end-point) is measured, where 95% of the decor is worn through.

Additionally the standard prescribes that the number of revolutions achieved with the testing machine in steps one and two are added and that the obtained sum is divided by 2. Hereby the 50% point for abrasion is obtained, which normally is the figure reported in standards and offprints.

In this and the following examples however only the IP is used.

Example 1

a) One roll of so called overlay paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 57% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The top side of the wet paper web was sprinkled with aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 8 g/m². The particles had an average size of 50 μ m. The particles were applied by using an apparatus as described in the U.S. patent 4,940,503.

The particle coated paper web was then continuously fed into a heating oven, where the solvent was evaporated while the resin cured to a so-called B-stage. The moisture content of the paper was after the drying 10% by weight. The other, not sprinkled side of the paper web was coated with a slurry of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 5.3% by weight. The average size of the particles was 1 μ m.

The paper web was then continuously dried in an oven until the moisture content of the paper was 7% by weight.

The final resin content of the completely impregnated paper was 70% by weight calculated as dry impregnated paper, and the total amount of added aluminium oxide particles was 8 + 2.7 g/m².

The paper web was cut into sheets of a suitable length.

b) One roll of so called overlay paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 70% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The top side of the wet paper web was sprinkled with aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 7 g/m² by using the same apparatus as in a) above. The particles were of an average size of 50 μ m. The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 7% by weight. The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as in a) above.

c) One roll of so called decor paper with a surface weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated with a solution of melamine-formaldehyde resin to a resin content of 46% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The impregnated paper web was dried to a moisture content of 4% by weight.

The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as in a) and b) above.

d) One roll of Kraft paper with a surface weight of 170 g/m² was impregnated with a phenol-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 28% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The wet paper web was dried to a final moisture content of 7% by weight. The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as above.

The impregnated paper sheets as described in a) - d) above were placed between two press plates in the following order; one paper a) with the side with the smallest particles oriented outwards, one paper b) with the sprinkled side oriented outwards, one paper c) and three papers d). Together the last mentioned papers, so-called base sheets, formed a base layer in the laminate which was manufactured by pressing of the sheets in a conventional multi-opening press during 80 minutes and at a pressure of 85 bar.

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion:	16100 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 4 (distance), across / 9 (real)

Example 2

The procedure according to example 1 was repeated with the difference that the melamine-formaldehyde slurry in step a) contained aluminium oxide particles with an average size of 3 μ m instead of 1 μ m.

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion: 14050 revolutions
Scratch resistance: across / 3 (distance), across / 3 (real)

Example 3

The procedure according to example 1 was repeated with the difference that the melamine-formaldehyde slurry in step a) contained 10.6% by weight of aluminium oxide particles instead of 5.3% by weight. Additionally the aluminium oxide particles had an average size of 5 μm instead of 1 μm . The total amount of particles was 8 + 5.4 g/m²

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion: 15500 revolutions
Scratch resistance: cross / 1 (distance), cross / 7 (real)

Example 4

The procedure according to example 3 was repeated with the difference that the melamine-formaldehyde slurry in step a) contained 15.9% by weight of aluminium oxide particles instead of 10.6% by weight. Also in this example the aluminium oxide particles had an average size of 5 μm . The total amount of particles added was 8 + 8.1 g/m²

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion: 14200 revolutions
Scratch resistance: across / 1 (distance), across / 1 (real)

Example 5

The procedure according to example 1 was repeated with the difference that the melamine-formaldehyde slurry in step a) contained aluminium oxide particles with an average size of 9 μm instead of 1 μm .

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion:	15100 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 3 (distance), across / 3 (real)

Example 6

a) One roll of so called overlay paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 57% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The top side of the wet paper web was sprinkled with aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 9 g/m². The particles were of an average size of 50 μ m. The particles were applied by using an apparatus as described in the U.S. patent 4,940,503.

The particle sprinkled paper web was then continuously feed into a heating oven, where the solvent was evaporated while the resin cured to a so-called B-stage. The moisture content of the paper was after drying 10% by weight.

The other, not sprinkled side of the paper web was coated with a slurry of melamine-formaldehyde containing aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 10.6% by weight. The average size of the particles was 3 μ m.

The paper web was then continuously dried in an oven until the moisture content of the paper was 7% by weight.

The final resin content in the completely impregnated paper was 72% by weight calculated as dry impregnated paper, and the total amount of added aluminium oxide particles was 9 + 5.4 g/m².

b) One roll of so-called overlay paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 72% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 7% by weight.

c) One roll of so called decor paper with a surface weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 46% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The impregnated paper web was dried to a moisture content of 4% by weight.

d) One roll of Kraft paper with a surface weight of 150 g/m² was impregnated with a phenol-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 36% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The wet paper web was dried to a moisture content of 7% by weight.

The impregnated paper webs as described in a) - d) above were continuously feed in between the two press bands of a continuous press in the following order; one paper a) with the side with the smallest particles oriented outwards, one paper b), one paper c) and three papers d).

The pressing cycle lasted for 20 seconds and the pressure was 35 bar. The laminate was then cut into suitable lengths.

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows:

Abrasion:	13900 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 3 (distance), across / 5 (real)

Example 7

The procedure according to example 6 was repeated with the difference that the slurry of melamine-formaldehyde resin in step a) contained aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 5.3% by weight instead of 10.6% by weight. The average size of the particles was 1 µm instead of 3 µm. The total amount of added aluminium oxide particles was 9 + 2.7 g/m².

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows:

Abrasion:	13900 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 5 (distance), across / 7 (real)

Example 8

a) One roll of so-called overlay paper of α-cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 70% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The top side of the wet paper web was sprinkled with aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 8 g/m². The particles were of an average size of 50 µm. The paper web was then

continuously dried in a heating oven to a moisture content of 7% by weight. The other side of the paper was left untreated and was therefore not coated with any hard particles. The paper web was cut into sheets of a suitable length.

Step b), c) and d) were repeated according to example 1.

The impregnated paper sheets according to a) - d) above were placed between two press plates in the following order: one paper a) with the particle side oriented downwards, one paper b) with the sprinkled side oriented outwards, one paper c) and three papers d). The pressing was conducted in the same way as in example 1.

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion:	13550 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 31 (distance), across / 41 (real)

Example 9

a) One roll of so-called overlay paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 50% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 7.2% by weight.

One side of the paper was coated with a slurry of a solution of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 5.0% by weight. The average size of the particles was 3 μ m.

The paper web was then continuously dried in an oven until the moisture content in the paper was 8.6% by weight.

The final resin content of the completely impregnated paper was 70% by weight calculated on dry impregnated paper, and the total amount of added aluminium oxide particles was 3.3 g/m².

The paper web was cut into sheets of a suitable length.

b) One roll of patterned decor paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 38 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 50% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The top side of

the wet paper web was sprinkled with aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 9.5 g/m^2 by using the same apparatus as in a) above. The particles were of an average size of $50 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$. The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 6.7% by weight. The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as in a) above.

c) One roll of monochromatic decor paper with a surface weight of 100 g/m^2 was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 54% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The impregnated paper web was dried to a moisture content of 6.5% by weight.

The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as in a) and b) above.

d) One roll of Kraft paper with a surface weight of 170 g/m^2 was impregnated with a phenol-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 28% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The wet paper web was dried to a final moisture content of 7% by weight. The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as above.

The impregnated paper sheets as described in a) - d) above were placed between two press plates in the following order; one paper a) with the particle coated side oriented outwards, three paper b) with the sprinkled side oriented outwards, one paper c) and three papers d). Together the last mentioned papers, so called base sheets, formed a base layer of the laminate which was manufactured by pressing the sheets in a conventional multi-opening press during 80 minutes and at a pressure of 85 bar.

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion:	26100 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 1 (distance), across / 9 (real)

Example 10

a) One roll of patterned decor paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 41 g/m^2 was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 41% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 6.7% by weight. One side of the paper web was then coated with a slurry of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing

aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 5% by weight. The particles had an average size of 3 μm .

The paper web was then continuously dried in an oven until the moisture content of the paper was 7.4% by weight.

The final resin content of the completely impregnated paper was 63% by weight calculated on dry impregnated paper, and the total amount of added aluminium oxide particles was 3.3 g/m^2 .

The paper web was cut into sheets of a suitable length.

b) One roll of patterned decor paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 41 g/m^2 was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 49% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The top side of the wet paper web was sprinkled with aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 9.5 g/m^2 . The particles were of an average size of 50 μm . The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 7% by weight. The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as in a) above.

The steps c) and d) according to example 9 were repeated and a laminate was manufacture in the same way as in example 9.

The impregnated paper sheets as described in a) - d) above were placed in the following order; one paper a) with the particle coated side oriented outwards, three papers b) with the sprinkled side oriented outwards, one paper c) and three papers d).

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion:	27100 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 5 (distance), across / 9 (real)

Example 11

a) One roll of so-called overlay paper of α -cellulose with a surface weight of 25 g/m^2 was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 50% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper.

The paper web was then continuously dried in a heating oven. The moisture content in the paper, was after drying 10% by weight.

One side of the paper web was coated with a slurry of a solution of melamine-formaldehyde resin containing aluminium oxide particles to an amount of 5.0% by weight. The average size of the particles was 3 μ m.

The paper web was then continuously dried in an oven until the moisture content of the paper was 7% by weight.

The final resin content in the completely impregnated paper was 70% by weight calculated on dry impregnated paper, and the total amount of added aluminium oxide particles was 3.3 g/m².

The paper web was cut into sheets of a suitable length.

b) One roll of so-called decor paper with a surface weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 46% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The paper web was then dried to a moisture content of 4% by weight.

The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as in a) above.

c) One roll of Kraft paper with a surface weight of 170 g/m² was impregnated with a phenol-formaldehyde resin solution to a resin content of 28% by weight, calculated on dry impregnated paper. The wet paper web was dried to a moisture content of 7% by weight. The paper web was cut into sheets of the same length as above.

The impregnated paper sheets as described in a) - c) above were placed between two press plates in the following order; one paper a) with the particle coated side oriented outwards, one paper b) and three papers c). Together the three last mentioned papers, so called base sheets, formed a base layer of the laminate which was manufactured by pressing of the sheets in a conventional multi-opening press during 80 minutes and at a pressure of 85 bar.

The properties of the manufactured laminate were as follows;

Abrasion:	200 revolutions
Scratch resistance:	across / 5 (distance), across / 9 (real)

CLAIMS

1. Process for the manufacturing of a decorative thermosetting laminate with an abrasion resistant and a scratch resistant surface layer, which laminate comprises paper sheets impregnated with a thermosetting resin, characterised in that a continuous paper web is impregnated with melamine-formaldehyde resin, that one side of the web is coated with about 2-20 g/m², preferably about 6-12 g/m² of hard particles with an average particle size of about 30-90 µm, preferably about 40-70 µm evenly distributed over the whole wet resin surface of the paper web, whereafter the resin is dried, that the other side of the paper web, or a second paper web is coated with a melamine-formaldehyde resin, where the resin contains hard particles with an average particle size of about 1-15 µm, preferably about 1-9 µm and in such an amount that the web will have a surface coating of about 1-15 g/m², preferably about 2-10 g/m² of these hard particles, that the resin is dried, that the particle-coated impregnated paper web is possibly cut into sheets, that at least one such sheet or web is placed as a surface layer on an base layer and is bonded thereto whereby the surface coated with the smallest particles is placed so that it is directed towards the upper side of the laminate and the surface with the bigger particles is directed downwards, alternatively that the first sheet or web with the smallest particles is placed as the uppermost layer in the laminate with the particle-coated side directed towards the upper side of the laminate and that the second sheet or web with the bigger particles is placed under the uppermost layer with the particle-coated surface directed outwards.
2. Process according to claim 1 characterised in that the base layer consists of a number of conventional dry pre-preg webs or pre-preg sheets respectively which are not coated with particles, that the particle coated web or sheet respectively is placed on top of these conventional webs or sheets, whereby the resin in the uppermost of these webs or sheets respectively possibly consists of melamine-formaldehyde resin, while the rest of the webs or sheets respectively contains phenol-formaldehyde resin or phenol-urea- formaldehyde resin, whereafter the webs respectively a stack of sheets are continuously respectively discontinuously bonded to the surface layer by using a high pressure and an increased temperature.
3. Process according to claim 1 characterised in that the base layer consists of a fibre-board or a particle-board.

4. Process according to any of the claims 1 - 3 characterised in that the particle coated paper web or paper sheet consists of a so called overlay paper, preferably of α -cellulose and or a so called decorative sheet, which can be patterned or monochromatic.
5. Process according to claims 3 characterised in that the particle-coated paper web or paper sheet is bonded to the base layer by gluing or laminating under heat and pressure.
6. Process according to any of the claims 1 - 5 characterised in that the hard particles consists of silicon dioxide, aluminium oxide, and/or silicon carbide.
7. Process according to any of the claims 1 - 6 characterised in that two particle coated overlay sheets are used.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/00796

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC6: B32B 29/00, B32B 27/04 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC6: B32B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
RM25, EPODOC, WPI, CLAIMS		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5362557 A (DONALD J. ALBRINCK ET AL), 8 November 1994 (08.11.94), column 4, line 51 - line 60; column 5, line 47 - line 63; column 9, line 15 - line 34, taböes I and II --	1-7S
A	EP 0519242 A1 (FORMICA CORPORATION), 23 December 1992 (23.12.92), page 5, line 13 - line 37, claims 21,24 and 25, example 1 --	1-7
A	EP 0329154 A1 (PERSTORP AB), 23 August 1989 (23.08.89), column 2, line 46 - line 53; column 5, line 6 - line 12, figure 4 --	1-7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
23 Sept 1996		23 -09- 1996
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86		Authorized officer Monika Bohlin Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/00796

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0219769 A2 (FORMICA CORPORATION), 29 April 1987 (29.04.87), page 13, line 21 - line 26 -----	1-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

05/09/96

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/00796

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A- 5362557	08/11/94	DE-D, T- 69107370	08/06/95
		EP-A, B- 0472036	26/02/92
		SE-T3- 0472036	
		ES-T- 2069138	01/05/95
EP-A1- 0519242	23/12/92	SE-T3- 0519242	
		AT-T- 130551	15/12/95
		AU-B- 662514	07/09/95
		AU-A- 1301592	24/12/92
		CA-A, C- 2063480	22/12/92
		DE-D, T- 69206200	02/05/96
		ES-T- 2079732	16/01/96
		JP-A- 5237972	17/09/93
		NZ-A- 242905	27/04/94
		US-A- 5288540	22/02/94
		US-A- 5456949	10/10/95
EP-A1- 0329154	23/08/89	SE-T3- 0329154	
		CA-A- 1317869	18/05/93
		DE-D, T- 68910548	28/04/94
		ES-T- 2048218	16/03/94
		SE-B, C- 460274	25/09/89
		SE-B- 8460274	25/09/89
		SE-A- 8800550	19/08/89
		US-A- 4940503	10/07/90
EP-A2- 0219769	29/04/87	SE-T3- 0219769	
		AU-B- 605113	10/01/91
		AU-A- 6415986	30/04/87
		CA-A- 1278246	27/12/90
		DE-A- 3684087	09/04/92
		US-A- 4880689	14/11/89

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

☒ **BLACK BORDERS**

☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**

☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**

☒ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**

☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**

☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**

☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**

☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.